# Quality Growth Commission

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January 17, 2001

#### **Overview of the Commission:**

- Created by the Quality Growth Act of 1999
- Statewide Purposes:
  - o Administer the LeRay McAllister Fund
  - o Allocate local planning grants
  - o Make recommendations to the legislature on growth issues
- Represents a broad spectrum of interests including local governments, development, housing, agriculture and ranching, and the citizens-at-large
- Meets monthly at various locations throughout the state
- Requires a two-thirds majority of the voting membership (9 of 13) to pass any motion

#### **Outreach to local governments:**

- Visited every county in the state to gather input on growth issues from local officials and citizens
- Conducted a Quality Growth Survey
- Used input from the visits and survey to create Quality Growth Principles

## **Assistance to local governments through planning grants:**

- Received 67 requests for planning assistance
- Awarded 34 grants for a total of \$400,000 two years' appropriations
- Funded projects in 14 counties from Cache to Kane
- Ensured each grant is matched by at least 50% from the grantee
- Assisted many local governments in creating their principles of quality growth
- Assisted some local governments in implementing quality growth and establishing quality growth areas

#### Conservation of critical lands 3/4 LeRay McAllister Fund:

- Preserved or restored 9,416 acres of critical land many are tied to or are phases of larger open space projects
- Funded projects in 12 counties from Cache to Washington and San Juan
- Leveraged McAllister funds with matching dollars the \$4.7 million spent from the fund thus far has been matched with \$17 million from private, local, federal and other state funds
- Ensured every critical land project serves a compelling public interest such as wildlife habitat, wetlands, scenic quality, historical/cultural resources, agriculture, recreation, water quality
- Received 10 new applications in December 2000 requesting a total of \$3 million

### Recommendations and advice to the legislature on quality growth:

- Created Utah's Quality Growth Principles addressing:
  - o Local Responsibility
  - State Leadership
  - o Economic Development
  - o Efficient Infrastructure Development
  - Housing Opportunity
  - o Conservation Ethic
- Adopted a recommendation for implementing a "net-gain" of private land policy
- Developed Utah land ownership map and data